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**Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Epidemiology and Genetics Program**

Joshua Lederberg
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Thank you for reviewing my proposals and sending me a copy of your comments. I'm sorry that you didn't agree with us regarding the potential usefulness of the season of birth finding as a clue to the etiologic heterogeneity of schizophrenia. We think that the increased familial risk for winter-spring born schizophrenics is striking.

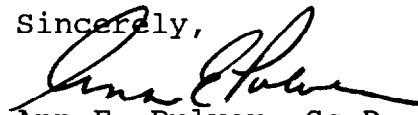
With regard to your queries -- 1) Although we report that there is no association between probability of a winter-spring birth date among the siblings of the schizophrenics or controls, we point out that it is important to consider the methodological weaknesses of our study. Small sample size is one of the problems we address. To detect a two-fold difference between the probability of a winter-spring born sibs among male cases vs. male controls our power is .63. The corresponding power calculation for females is .48. It is our hope that since no one group will probably ever have a large enough sample, other investigators will look at their data using similar statistical methods and/or we will be able to combine our data with others to increase the statistical power.

2) You didn't miss anything with regard to comments on the number of sibs among winter-spring born schizophrenics vs. winter-spring born controls. It is difficult to interpret this finding given that the schizophrenics have a lower SES than the patients in the other diagnostic groups (controls) and that SES is associated with sibship size.

3) I agree, the intra-kindred studies should be most informative.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

Sincerely,


Ann E. Pulver, Sc.D.

AEP/jlb

